

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed December 13, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1 and 27 are canceled. Claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 26, 28, 29, and 30 have been amended. Claims 2-26 and 28-30 are pending in this application, with claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 28, and 29 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, the drawings are objected to because the original drawings are informal. Accordingly, formal drawing are now submitted as an attachment to this amendment. In view of the formal drawings, the objection to the drawings should now be withdrawn.

Claim 10 is objected to as containing a minor informality. Claim 10 has been amended to correct the informality in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, the objection to claim 10 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 26, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,490,722 (Barton).

Claims 2-25 and 28-29 were found to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the allowable subject matter, claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 28, and 29 are rewritten in independent form. These claims are now deemed to be allowable.


Dependent claims 3, 6-9, 11-26, and 30, each being dependent on one of independent claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 28, and 29, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 28, and 29.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

A check in the amount \$600.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 3 new independent claims in excess of three. Any additional fees or charges are required at this time may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings comprise formal versions of Figs. 1-7 and replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-7.

Attachment: Formal Drawings